

BULLETIN
OF
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Acadia University Library
Wolfville, Nova Scotia

M. L. I. OFFICERS FOR 1939-1940

- President: Mr. Bramwell Chandler, P. E. I. Libraries,
Charlottetown, P. E. I.
- Vice-Presidents: For New Brunswick: Miss E.M.A. Vaughan, Saint John Free
Public Library, Saint John, N. B.
For Nova Scotia: Miss Eugenie Archibald, Dalhousie
University Library, Halifax, N. S.
For Prince Edward Island: Miss Jean C. Gill, P. E. I.
Legislative Library and Charlottetown Public Library,
Charlottetown, P. E. I.
- Secretary-
Treasurer: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, Acadia University Library,
Wolfville, N. S.
- Councillors: Mrs. B. M. Moore, Moncton Public Library, Moncton, N. B.
Miss Evelyn M. Campbell, Provincial Science Library,
Halifax, N. S.
Miss Dorothy Cullen, P.E.I. Libraries, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE M. L. I.

Announcement

The Moncton Public Library Board has invited the Maritime Library Institute to hold its Annual Conference for 1940 in the City of Moncton, and the invitation has been gratefully accepted. The date has not yet been fixed, but it is probable the meeting will be in June.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Fifth Annual Conference of the Maritime Library Institute met in the Library of the University of King's College, Halifax, N. S., June 22, 1939, President Bramwell Chandler in the chair. The President in his opening address reviewed the year in respect to Maritime libraries; he spoke of the appointment of the Regional Libraries Commission in Nova Scotia and of Miss Nora Bateson as Director of Libraries; he mentioned appreciatively the latest issue of the Biennial Survey of Libraries published by the Federal Government; and he referred to the recent legislation reducing the postage rates on books circulated by libraries. He affirmed his belief that the library of the future in the Maritimes would not be a

place for current books only, but a depository of records. We must adapt ourselves to change; the Library must take a larger place in adult education; there should be more advisory service.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

After the Minutes of the Fourth Conference had been read and adopted, the Secretary-Treasurer submitted her report. These were the main points: the nine new members who had joined the M. L. I. since the last report; the appointment of the Regional Libraries Commission in Nova Scotia and the work of Miss Nora Bateson as Director of Libraries; the mimeographing and distribution of two hundred copies of Miss Doreen Harper's paper on Government Documents; the policy of the M. L. I. Bulletin for the year and its kindly reception by editors of other journals with similar or related aims. The balance in the bank was reported as \$128.09. On motion, this report was adopted.

Committees

President Chandler reported for the Publicity Committee appointed at the Charlottetown Conference. He referred to Miss Cullen's broadcasting talks at Charlottetown and to Mrs. Moore's campaign in Moncton in cooperation with a bookish newspaper reporter.

The President then appointed the Nominating Committee: Miss Mary Fraser, Miss Jean C. Gill, and Miss Myrtle Roy; and the Resolutions Committee: Miss Mary Falconer, Miss E.M.A. Vaughan.

Librarians' Round Table

The librarians present then related to one another in an informal way the interesting matters of their year's work. Miss Eugenie Archibald of Dalhousie Library reported that thirteen travelling libraries had gone out during the year; she also told of a valuable donation made by Dr. Wm. Inglis Morse to the Collection called by his name.

Miss Hibbard, in the temporary absence of Miss Allan, reported for King's University Library, itself a marvel of well-ordered excellence, as all could see. The interest was sustained, the circulation was increasing.

Mr. Harry Piers briefly reviewed the history of the Provincial Science Library at Halifax. It owes its foundation to the N. S. Institute of Science organised in 1862. The Institute began collecting books in 1864; Mr. Piers was appointed librarian in 1888, and has filled the office for forty-one years. The Library functions for the whole Province of Nova Scotia. Last year the circulation of books was doubled. Mr. Piers closed his report with a tribute to Miss Evelyn M. Campbell, who takes much of the actual care of the Library.

Miss Zaidoo A. Harris, proprietor and librarian of the Peter Pan Library in Halifax, spoke of her contact during the year with the educational department and with rural schools.

Miss Mary Falconer reported that the children's reading room of the Junior League had been changed into a circulating library, and that the interest of the children was intense.

Miss Emilie Raymond sketched briefly the history of the Yarmouth Public Library, founded by a Yarmouth citizen, Mr. Baker, who died in 1899, leaving the library to the town with \$8000 for maintenance, provided the citizens would raise another \$8000 in five years. The interest of the people of Yarmouth in their library is constant and on the increase. Mr. Piers commented pertinently on Miss Raymond's report.

Miss Vaughan compared the library situation in Saint John with that of Halifax; in the latter city there were many libraries, in the former the Saint John Free Public Library only. She spoke of its value as an educator. "Friends of the Library" and affiliated clubs had been a great help during the winter. Because of epidemics in the city the circulation in the children's room had decreased.

Miss Gill reported for the Legislative and Public Library in Charlottetown. The books accessioned and catalogued during the year numbered 187 in the Legislative Library and 467 in the Public Library. Reading room space had been enlarged, and shelving installed. Circulation for the year was 74,535, the monthly circulation averaging 6213. Miss Gill reported special activity in the children's department.

Mrs. Ingraham spoke briefly on the Library of Acadia University. On the occasion of the Centennial, August, 1938, there had been large exhibits in the library, illustrating the history of the University and showing the literary and scientific work of its alumni.

Mr. Chandler reported that Prince Edward Island during the last year had spent \$18,000 for libraries and adult education. He thought librarians should not be too apologetic in demanding funds for their work. The circulation of the P. E. I. regional libraries had increased 12,000 over previous years. The Carnegie Corporation had donated an art collection which was proving a vital source of interest. Mr. Chandler also referred to the study of reading interests sponsored by Dr. Cartwright.

Miss Mary Fraser reported a busy year in the Halifax Library Club. The members had celebrated Book Week with happy results and latterly had been occupied with plans for the Conference.

Miss E. G. Shaw, speaking for the Saint John Library Club, said that it had met regularly and had enjoyed a successful year. One interesting feature had been a roll call where each response took the form of a book review.

Greetings from the President of the A.L.A.

President Chandler read a letter from Dr. Milton A. Ferguson, President of the A. L. A., sending greetings to the M. L. I. This letter alluded to the reorganisation of the A.L.A. and the ensuing problems.

Luncheon

Miss Archibald on behalf of the Halifax Library Club invited the delegates to luncheon at the Lord Nelson Hotel; and as soon as the morning session was adjourned, we proceeded thither. Miss Archibald gracefully presided at a table to which twenty-six sat down; the luncheon was excellent, the conversation brilliant, and the guests exceedingly grateful to the Halifax Library Club. As we came from the table, cars were waiting to take the delegates on a tour of the libraries of Halifax, - to the Citizens' Free Library, to the Legislative Library, to the Dalhousie Medical and Dental Library, where we had refreshments, and lastly to the Peter Pan Library, where we were served afternoon tea in the charming garden.

Evening Session

The evening session was held in the Lord Nelson Hotel, and was open to the public. President Chandler announced the topic of the evening, Regional Libraries, as the most important one to the library profession in the Provinces today. Regional libraries furnish the tools with which ordinary men and women learn to meet conditions and techniques in this changing world.

Mr. Chandler then introduced Dr. H. F. Munro, Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia and Chairman of the Regional Libraries Commission. Dr. Munro welcomed the M. L. I. Conference to Halifax. His own interest in libraries, he said, was that of the administrator of public education in the Province. There have been great changes during the last twenty years, and a new philosophy of education has been formulated. Without free access to books intelligent citizenship cannot survive, our form of society cannot last; therefore, regional libraries are fundamental. Outside technical and professional fields, very few of our people read. We must give them the opportunity, and to this end regional libraries are a necessity if we maintain a democracy. We have not the libraries yet, but in the liberal, comprehensive Act recently passed by the Nova Scotia Government, we have the instrument.

Following Dr. Munro's address Miss Nora Bateson spoke. After thanking the Halifax librarians and other members of the M. L. I. for their encouragement in her work, she reviewed the various steps in the campaign for regional libraries in Nova Scotia: the Survey; the appointment of the Library Commission; the Act of 1937, with amendments in 1938 and 1939; the cooperation of the Women's Institutes. Miss Bateson then described the system in Prince Edward Island. She stressed the value of regional libraries to the children of these provinces, who by their means would find at their service, not only two or three hundred volumes in the school library, but a continuous flow of books. At this point the speaker exhibited a chart on which she pointed out the relative position of Nova Scotia's library status to that of other districts in the United States and Canada. The comparison was not flattering to Nova Scotia.

President Chandler, at the conclusion of Miss Bateson's address, asked Rev. Dr. J. J. Tompkins to speak. In his vivid way the doctor pleaded the cause of regional libraries as a means of helping the laborers of the land. Referring to the chart exhibited by Miss Bateson he said that the people of Cape Breton were excited when they saw how little the Province contributed to the education of its people, - to adult education only two cents per capita. He had recently attended a meeting at Niagara at which laborers, farmers, and other minority groups were represented. He quoted from the speeches of labor representatives: "You college professors do not know enough to take care of yourselves, and you expect to educate us." "Education for education's sake; ash cans for the sake of ash cans." Ideas, the reverend doctor asserted, were all subordinated in these days to the making of money; men were turned into robots to make money for people who have little brains. We want not bread alone; we want knowledge, fellowship; we want to work, sing, play together. The regional library is a university for the people.

After a brief discussion, several questions being asked and answered, the evening session adjourned.

The Second Morning Session: Miss Bateson

On the morning of June 23 the Conference again met at King's College in the Library, President Chandler in the chair.

Miss Bateson led a discussion on the subject paramount: Financing the Regional Library. The main source of finance would come, said Miss Bateson, from the association of towns, municipalities, or cities in the levying of taxes and granting of funds for the establishment and maintenance of such a library. The Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Act gives just this power. Miss Bateson's opinion was that 35 cents per capita tax would make possible a system of these libraries throughout the province. A lively discussion followed; many questions were asked and most clearly and patiently answered by the speaker.

President Chandler's Report on Reading Interests

President Chandler next gave a report on his recent study of reading interests on Prince Edward Island. It is not summarised here as the paper is to appear in the December Bulletin. Those present followed the discussion with keen interest.

Mr. John Fisher on Adult Education and the Library

Mr. John Fisher of the Halifax Herald spoke on Adult Education and the Library. Referring to the disturbed conditions in the world at present, Mr. Fisher pointed out the great need that the people find a new unity. They must develop their intelligence, they must be well informed, and to this end they must have libraries. Mr. Fisher was heartily applauded and thanked.

Report of the Committee on Resolutions

The report of the Committee on Resolutions conveyed the thanks of the Institute to the President and Executive Board of the University of King's College for their kindness in allowing the Conference to meet in the Library, and to the Halifax Library Club for their splendid hospitality as shown in their arrangements, especially in the luncheon at the Lord Nelson Hotel. The meeting adjourned.

Tea at Green Acres

In the afternoon Miss Bateson entertained the members of the Institute at tea on the lawn of Green Acres, Waverley. On the way we called at Mount Saint Vincent College, where the sisters showed us the beautiful chapel and the library. We also visited the college library on the grounds, the one founded by Sister Francis de Sales for the benefit of the people in the neighborhood. We were all sorry that this sister, the librarian of the college and also the instructor in Library Science, was ill and unable to meet us. Miss Bateson was waiting at Green Acres where tea was served immediately, Mrs. Ingraham pouring. The air and sunshine were delightful and the hostess most gracious. Before the members separated, Miss Mary Fraser brought in the report of the Nominating Committee, which was adopted. The names and addresses of the M.L.I. officers for the year 1939-40 are on the first page of this issue. Then the fifth annual conference was over.